

## Injury among Residents of La Paz County, Arizona 2005

Injury is a public health problem that impacts the lives of thousands of Arizona residents each year. Chronic pain, disability, large medical bills, changes in quality of life, and premature death are just some of the possible effects of injuries. These effects can extend beyond injured individuals to their families and communities. With non-fatal injuries, family members are often required to provide care, which can result in time away from work, loss of income, and increases in stress within the family. At the community level, the financial burden of injuries can include medical expenses, rehabilitation, lost wages, and lost productivity. Most injuries are predictable and preventable. Understanding the causes of injury is an important step toward reducing injury-related morbidity and mortality.

The following report identifies the leading causes of injury among residents of La Paz County in 2005. This report is intended to be used as a guide for strategy development, program implementation, and evaluation. The Arizona Department of Health Services Injury Prevention Program operates under the vision of reducing injuries in Arizona using integrated surveillance and evidence-based interventions. This report was generated to increase awareness of county-specific injury issues and to facilitate opportunities for effective injury prevention activities.

**Figure 1. Injury Pyramid for La Paz County Residents, Arizona 2005**

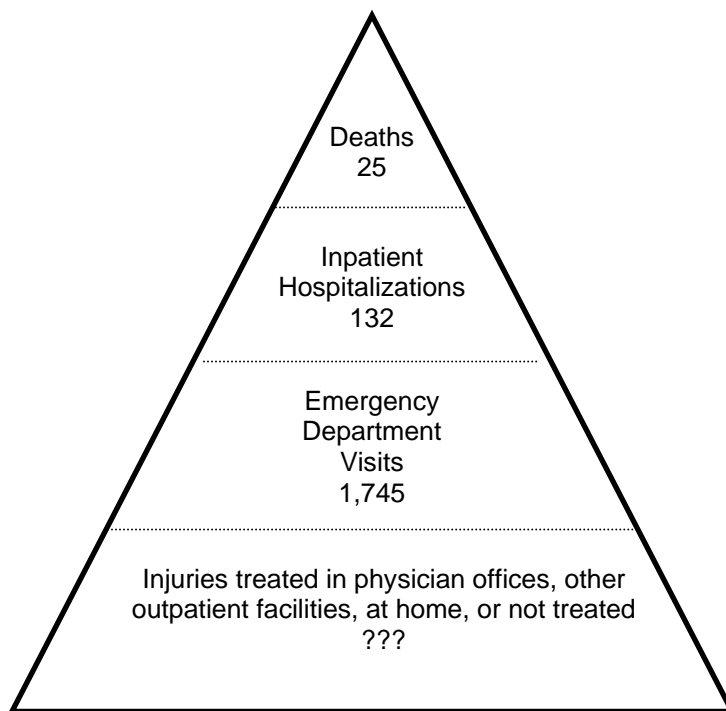


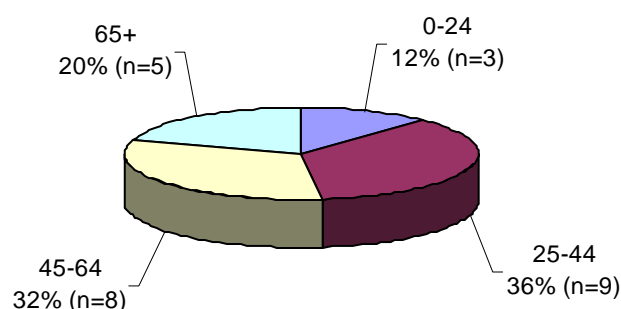
Figure 1 shows an injury pyramid for residents of La Paz County during 2005. This pyramid shows that deaths represent the smallest proportion of injuries. The proportions increase towards the foundation of the pyramid, which is comprised of

hospital discharges, emergency department visits, and self care. Although injuries that do not require medical treatment may be the most numerous, no existing datasets capture these types of injuries.

## Deaths

In 2005, there were 25 injury-related deaths in La Paz County. Most of these deaths were among males (76 percent, n=19), and females accounted for 24 percent (n=6). The largest percentage of deaths was among individuals ages 25 to 44 years (36 percent, n=9). Age distributions are shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2. Injury-Related Deaths by Age Group,  
La Paz County, Arizona 2005 (n=25)**

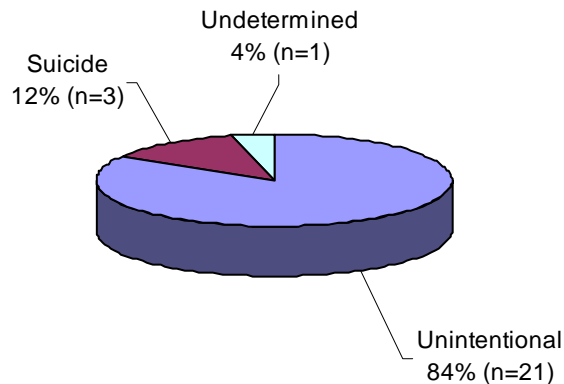


Non-Hispanic Whites accounted for the majority of injury-related deaths in La Paz County (60 percent, n=15), followed by American Indians (24 percent, n=6). Rates by racial/ethnic groups could not be calculated due to small sample sizes.

Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death among individuals ages 1 to 44 years in La Paz County and in the state of Arizona as a whole.<sup>1</sup> Eighty-four percent of injury-related deaths in La Paz County were due to unintentional injuries (n=21); 12 percent were suicides (n=3); and 4 percent were of undetermined intent (n=1). There were no homicides in La Paz County during 2005. Figure 3 shows injury-related deaths by intent.

<sup>1</sup> Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2005.

**Figure 3. Injury-Related Deaths by Intent, La Paz County, Arizona 2005 (n=25)**



*La Paz County Injury-Related Deaths Compared to Other Arizona Counties*

Table 1 shows the intent of injury-related deaths for residents of La Paz County compared to residents of the rest of Arizona. The leading intent of injury-related deaths was unintentional for both La Paz County and the remaining counties, accounting for the majority of injury-related deaths. La Paz County had a smaller percentage of suicides (12 percent) than the remainder of Arizona (20 percent), and no homicides.

<b>Table 1. Intent of Injury-Related Deaths, La Paz County Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005</b>			
La Paz County (n=25)		Arizona, excluding La Paz County (n=4,565)	
<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Unintentional	84	Unintentional	65
Suicide	12	Suicide	20
Homicide	0	Homicide	11
Undetermined	4	Undetermined	4

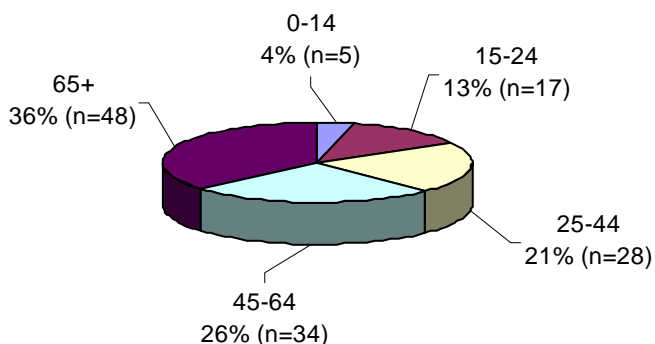
The most common cause of unintentional injury-related deaths was motor vehicle traffic crashes (43 percent, n=9). Twenty-nine percent of unintentional injury deaths had other/unspecified causes (n=6). The causes of unintentional injury-related deaths during 2005 in La Paz County are shown in Table 2.

<b>Table 2. Causes of Unintentional Injury-Related Deaths among La Paz County Residents, Arizona 2005</b>		
<b>Cause</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Motor vehicle traffic	9	43%
Other/unspecified	6	29%
Fire	3	14%
Poisoning	3	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Non-Fatal Inpatient Hospitalizations

In 2005, there were 132 non-fatal inpatient hospitalizations due to injury among residents of La Paz County. Sixty-one percent were male (n=80) and 39 percent were female (n=52). Thirty-six percent of the hospitalizations were among individuals 65 years and older (n=48). Figure 4 shows injury-related inpatient hospitalizations by age group among residents of La Paz County.

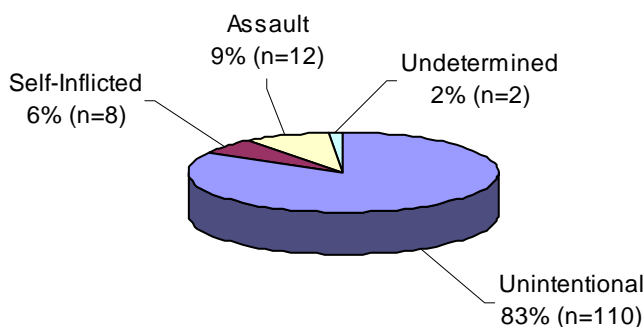
**Figure 4. Injury-Related Inpatient Hospitalizations by Age Group, La Paz County, Arizona 2005 (n=132)**



There were 88 injury-related hospitalizations among White, Non-Hispanic residents of La Paz County (67 percent). The second highest number was among American Indians (17 percent, n=22). Rates by racial/ethnic groups could not be calculated due to small sample sizes.

Eighty-three percent of the inpatient hospitalizations were unintentional (n=110); 9 percent were assaults (n=12); 6 percent were due to self-inflicted injuries (n=8); and 2 percent were of undetermined intent (n=2). Figure 5 shows injury-related hospitalizations by intent.

**Figure 5. Injury-Related Inpatient Hospitalizations by Intent, La Paz County, Arizona 2005 (n=132)**



### *La Paz County Injury-Related Hospitalizations Compared to Other Arizona Counties*

Table 3 shows the intent of injury-related hospitalizations for residents of La Paz County compared to residents of the rest of Arizona. The leading intent of injury-related hospitalizations was unintentional for both La Paz County and the remaining counties, accounting for the majority of injury-related hospitalizations. Overall, La Paz County and the rest of Arizona had similar percentages of hospitalizations due to self-inflicted injuries and assaults.

<b>Table 3. Intent of Injury-Related Inpatient Hospitalizations, La Paz County Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005</b>			
La Paz County (n=132)		Arizona, excluding La Paz County (n=34,892)	
<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Unintentional	83	Unintentional	84
Self-Inflicted	6	Self-Inflicted	8
Assault	9	Assault	6
Undetermined	2	Undetermined	2

The most common cause of unintentional inpatient hospitalizations was falls (35 percent, n=38). Table 4 shows the causes of unintentional injury-related hospitalizations among residents of La Paz County.

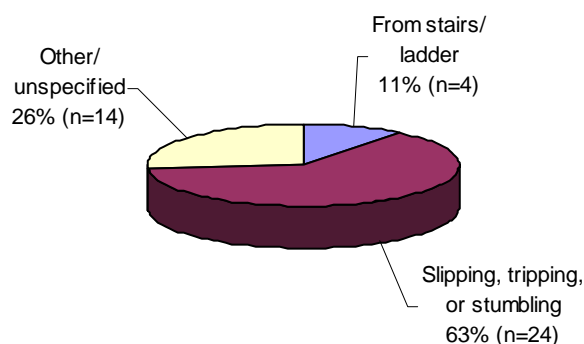
<b>Table 4. Causes of Unintentional Injury-Related Inpatient Hospitalizations among La Paz County Residents, Arizona 2005</b>		
<b>Cause</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Fall	38	35%
Other/unspecified	27	25%
Motor vehicle traffic	26	24%
Motor vehicle non-traffic	7	6%
Poisoning	6	5%
Nature/environment	6	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Falls

Males accounted for 42 percent of unintentional fall-related hospitalizations (n=16) and females accounted for 58 percent (n=22). Eighteen percent of fall-related hospitalizations were among individuals 64 years and under (n=7), and 82 percent were among individuals 65 years and older (n=31).

For 63 percent of the unintentional fall-related hospitalizations, slipping, tripping, or stumbling was specified as the contributing event (n=24). Falls from stairs or ladders accounted for 11 percent of the unintentional fall-related hospitalizations (n=4). Figure 6 shows unintentional fall-related hospitalizations by contributing event.

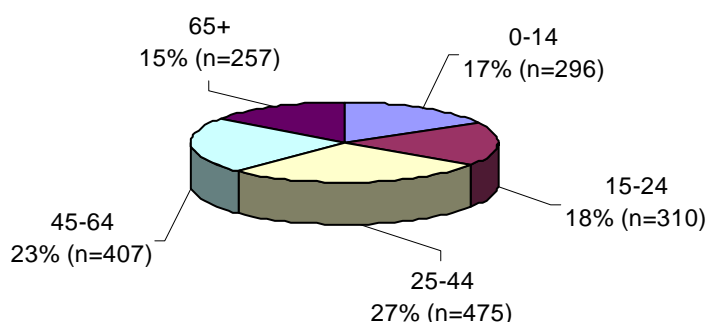
**Figure 6. Inpatient Hospitalizations due to Unintentional Falls by Contributing Event, La Paz County, Arizona 2005 (n=38)**



### Non-Fatal Emergency Department Visits

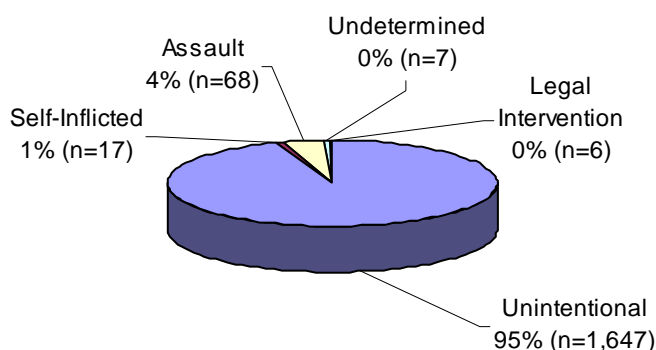
In 2005, there were 1,745 injury-related emergency department visits among residents of La Paz County. Males accounted for 54 percent of these visits (n=944) and females accounted for 46 percent (n=801). The largest percentage of visits was among individuals ages 25 to 44 years (27 percent, n=475). Figure 7 shows injury-related emergency department visits by age group.

**Figure 7. Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits by Age Group, La Paz County, Arizona 2005 (n=1,745)**



Nearly all of the emergency department visits were due to unintentional injuries (95 percent, n=1,647). Four percent were due to assaults (n=68) and 1 percent were due to self-inflicted injuries (n=17). Six injury-related visits were due to legal intervention, and seven visits were of undetermined intent. Figure 8 shows emergency department visits by intent.

**Figure 8. Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits by Intent, La Paz County, Arizona 2005  
(n=1,745)**



*La Paz County Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits Compared to Other Arizona Counties*

Table 5 shows the intent of injury-related emergency department visits for residents of La Paz County compared to residents of the rest of Arizona. The leading intent of injury-related visits was unintentional for both La Paz County and the remaining counties, accounting for the majority of injury-related visits. La Paz County and the rest of Arizona had the same percentages of emergency department visits due to self-inflicted injuries and assaults.

<b>Table 5. Intent of Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits, La Paz County Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005</b>			
La Paz County (n=1,745)		Arizona, excluding La Paz County (n=376,926)	
<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Unintentional	95	Unintentional	94
Self-Inflicted	1	Self-Inflicted	1
Assault	4	Assault	4
Undetermined	0	Undetermined	1

The most common cause of unintentional emergency department visits was falls (26 percent, n=431). Table 6 shows the causes of unintentional injury-related emergency department visits for La Paz County residents in 2005.

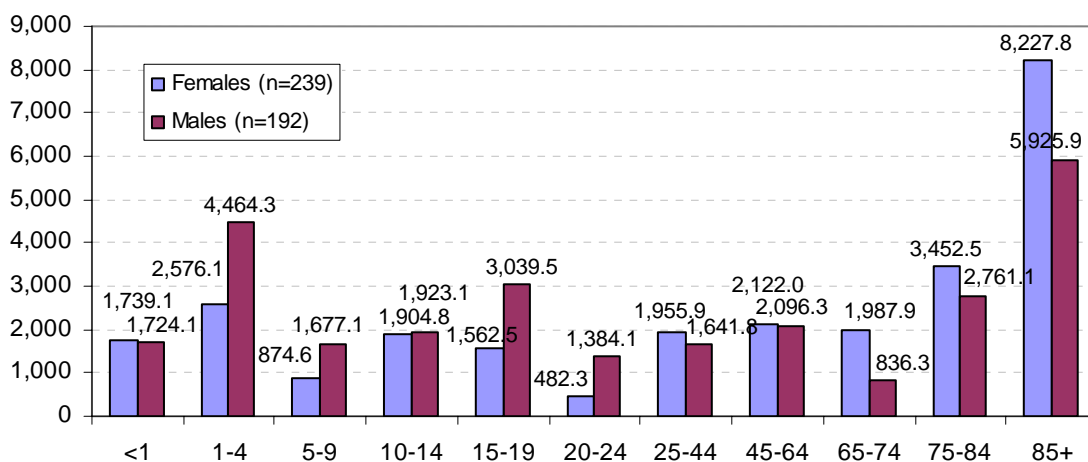
<b>Table 6. Causes of Unintentional Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits among La Paz County Residents, Arizona 2005</b>		
<b>Cause</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Fall	431	26%
Other/unspecified	291	18%
Overexertion	221	13%
Struck by/against	188	11%
Motor vehicle traffic	151	9%
Cut/pierce	135	8%
Nature/environment	117	7%
Motor vehicle non-traffic	44	3%
Fire/hot object	40	3%
Other pedal cycle	29	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Falls

There were 431 emergency department visits due to unintentional falls. Males accounted for 45 percent of these visits (n=192) and females accounted for 55 percent (n=239). Seventeen percent of visits were among children 14 years and under (n=74); 8 percent were among individuals ages 15 to 24 years (n=36); 47 percent were among individuals ages 25 to 64 years (n=199); and 28 percent were among individuals 65 years and older (n=122).

The highest rates of unintentional fall-related emergency department visits were among older adults. Females 85 years and older had a rate of 8,227.8 fall-related emergency department visits per 100,000 residents. Figure 9 shows emergency department visit rates of unintentional falls by age group and gender.

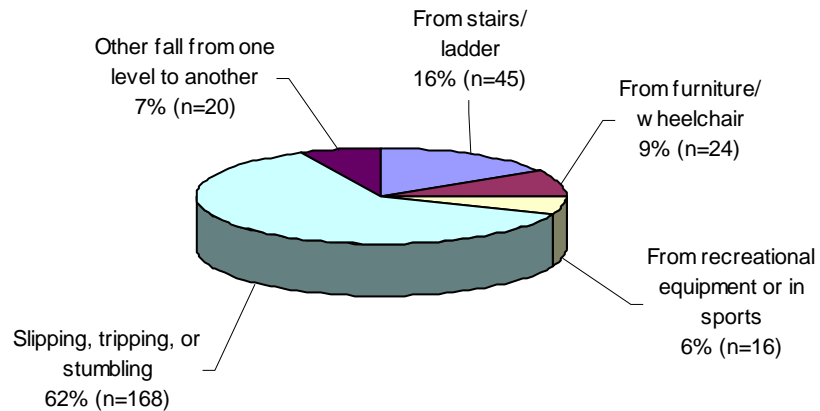
**Figure 9. Unintentional Fall-Related Emergency Department Visit Rates per 100,000, La Paz County, Arizona 2005 (n=431)**





For 37 percent of the unintentional fall-related emergency department visits, information regarding contributing event was not specified in the emergency department database (n=158). Among the emergency department visits for which contributing event was specified, 62 percent of falls were due to slipping, tripping, or stumbling (n=168). Figure 10 shows emergency department visits due to unintentional falls by contributing event.

**Figure 10. Emergency Department Visits due to Unintentional Falls by Contributing Event, La Paz County, Arizona 2005 (n=273)**



## Summary

In 2005, there were 25 injury-related deaths in La Paz County, and the largest percentage of deaths was among individuals ages 25 to 44 years (36 percent, n=9). The majority of these deaths were due to unintentional injuries (84 percent, n=21). The most common cause of unintentional injury deaths was motor vehicle traffic crashes (43 percent, n=9). For residents of La Paz County, unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for individuals ages 1 to 44 years.<sup>1</sup> Twelve percent of injury-related deaths in La Paz County were suicides (n=3) and 4 percent were of undetermined intent (n=1).

There were 132 non-fatal inpatient hospitalizations due to injury among residents of La Paz County. Thirty-six percent of the hospitalizations were among individuals 65 years and older (n=48). Eighty-three percent of the hospitalizations were due to unintentional injuries (n=110); 9 percent were due to assaults (n=12); 6 percent were due to self-inflicted injuries (n=8); and 2 percent were of undetermined intent (n=2). The most common cause of unintentional injury-related hospitalizations was falls (35 percent, n=38).

There were 1,745 injury-related non-fatal emergency department visits among residents of La Paz County in 2005. The largest percentage of visits was among individuals ages 25 to 44 years (27 percent, n=475). Ninety-five percent of the emergency department visits were due to unintentional injuries (n=1,647); 4 percent were due to assaults (n=68); and 1 percent were due to self-inflicted injuries (n=17). There were six injury-related visits due to legal intervention and seven visits were of undetermined intent. The most common cause of unintentional injury-related emergency department visits was falls (26 percent, n=431).

Source for deaths: 2005 Death Certificate Database

Source for hospitalizations: 2005 Inpatient Hospital Discharge Database

Source for emergency department visits: 2005 Outpatient Emergency Department Database

## Arizona Counties with Population, 2005

